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Synthesis and molecular structures of dialkylselenonium methylide complexes of indium tribromide

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Abstract

The reaction of bromomethyl-dibromo-indium(III), Br_2InCH_2Br with dialkylselenides, R^1SeR^2 ($R^1 = CH_3$, $R^2 = CH_2C_6H_5$; $R^1 = C_2H_5$, $R^2 = CH_2C_6H_5$; $R^1 = R^2 = CH_2C_6H_5$) afforded the corresponding dialkylselenonium methylide complexes of indium tribromide, $Br_3InCH_2SeR^1R^2$, which were fully characterized by NMR spectroscopy and single crystal X-ray diffraction studies. © 2004 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Indium; Organoindium; Carbenoid; Ylid; Zwitterion; Crystal structure

1. Introduction

The oxidative insertion of indium monohalides, InX, into a carbon-halogen bond of *gem*-dialkyldihalides, $R^1R^2CX_2$ produces the α -halogenoalkyl-indium(III) compounds of general formula X₂InCR¹R²X (Eq. (1)) [1]. It is possible to modulate the electronic character of the α -halogenoalkyl substituent by the correct choice of the R¹ and R² substituents on the parent dialkyldihalide.



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Organoindium compounds containing nucleophilic α halogenoalkyl substituents were obtained from gemdihalides containing electron withdrawing groups R¹ and R² (X = Br, R¹ = CN, R² = H [2]; X = Cl, R¹ = CN, R² = Cl [3]; X = Cl, R¹ = C₆H₅CO, R² = H [4]; X = Cl, Br, I, R¹ = Cl, Br, I, R² = H [5]), while the carbenoids (I) derived from methylene dihalides, X₂InCH₂X (X = Br, I), contain halomethylic substituents of considerable electrophilic character, resulting in a strong interaction of the α -halogen atom with an empty metal orbital. This analysis allows an interpretation of the reactivity of the X₂InCH₂X molecules in terms of the tautomeric relationship shown in Scheme 1 [6].

The addition of a soft neutral ligand L to the X_2InCH_2X molecules yields the corresponding X_3InCH_2L adduct, in which the ligand L is directly attached to the methylene carbon. This paper reports on an extension of these studies. We have now prepared new selenonium methylide complexes of indium tribromide, which were fully characterized by NMR and X-ray diffraction studies.

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2. Experimental

2.1. General

Indium monobromide was prepared by heating indium metal and indium tribromide in a vacuum sealed tube at 450 °C. Methylene bromide (Aldrich) was dried over Linde 4 Å molecular sieves. $Br_2In(diox)_2CH_2Br$ was prepared from InBr and CH_2Br_2 as described earlier [6]. 1,4-Dioxane (diox) was dried over sodium and benzophenone, and distilled just before use from the blue ketyl form. Chloroform (ACS grade) was used as supplied. All preparative work was carried out under dry nitrogen atmosphere, up to the isolation of final products. Proton, carbon and selenium (diphenyl diselenide as internal standard) NMR spectra were recorded on the Bruker DPX-200 and DPX-400 instruments.

2.2. Preparation of dialkylselenides, $R^{1}SeR^{2}$, **2** ($a = R^{1} = CH_{3}$, $R^{2} = CH_{2}C_{6}H_{5}$; $b = R^{1} = C_{2}H_{5}$, $R^{2} = CH_{2}C_{6}H_{5}$; $c = R^{1} = R^{2} = CH_{2}C_{6}H_{5}$)

The dialkylselenide ligands were all prepared from dibenzyldiselenide, which was made from NaBH₄, elemental selenium and benzyl chloride, according to the literature [7]. Thus, 510 mg (1.50 mmol) of dibenzyldiselenide was suspended in ethanol (20 mL) in a round bottom flask. NaBH₄ (3 mmol) was added as a solid to the suspension and the reaction kept under magnetic stirring until a clear solution was obtained. At this point, 3 mmol of the corresponding alkyl halide R¹X $(a = R^1 = CH_3, X = I; b = R^1 = C_2H_5, X = Br; c =$ $R^1 = C_6H_5CH_2$, X = Cl) was added via syringe and the mixture stirred for additional 4 h. After this period, the reaction was quenched with water, the organics extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2 × 20 mL). The organic phase was dried (Na_2SO_4) , evaporated to dryness to give an oil, which was purified by column chromatography over silical gel with hexane. This procedure gives 2a-c in the following yields (a = 82%, b = 67%, c = 69%). Compounds 2a-c were characterized by ¹H NMR spectroscopy:

Benzyl-methyl-selenide, **2a** (colorless oil): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 7.22 (s, 5H), 3.69 (s, 2H), 1.85 (s, 3H); ⁷⁷Se NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 170 [8].

Benzyl-ethyl-selenide, **2b** (colorless oil): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): 7.22 (s, 5H), 3.73 (s, 2H), 2.44 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H); ⁷⁷Se NMR (CDCl₃): $\delta = 284$.

Dibenzylselenide, **2c** [yellow solid, mp = 45–46 °C (Lit. [7] 45.5 °C)]: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): 7.18 (m, 5H), 3.75 (s, 2H); ⁷⁷Se NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 331 [8].

2.3. Preparation of dialkylselenonium methylide complexes of InBr₃, Br₃InCH₂SeR¹R², **3** ($\boldsymbol{a} = R^{1} = CH_{3}$, $R^{2} = CH_{2}C_{6}H_{5}$; $\boldsymbol{b} = R^{1} = C_{2}H_{5}$, $R^{2} = CH_{2}C_{6}H_{5}$; $\boldsymbol{c} = R^{1} = R^{2} = CH_{2}C_{6}H_{5}$)

InBr (195 mg, 1 mmol) was suspended in 1,4-dioxan (8 mL) in a Schlenk flask under dry N_2 atmosphere. To this solution was added CH₂Br₂ (869 mg, 0.35 mL, 5 mmol) and the suspension was stirred until complete dissolution of the red InBr solid. A clear colorless solution was obtained. The volatiles were removed from this solution under high vacuum to produce a white solid (the bis-dioxan adduct of Br₂InCH₂Br). The solid was re-dissolved in dioxan (8 mL) and to this solution was added the corresponding dialkylselenide **2a**–c (1 mmol). The reaction was kept under stirring for 6 h, after which the volatiles were again removed under high vacuo to produce oily materials, which were dissolved in hot chloroform (15 mL). From the solutions, crystalline Br₃InCH₂SeR¹R² compounds precipitate upon cooling to room temperature. The crystals were filtered and dried under vacuo (Yield: 3a = 40%, 3b = 70%, 3c = 75%). The Br₃InCH₂SeR¹R² compounds were characterized by NMR spectroscopy and single crystal X-ray diffraction studies.

Benzyl-methyl-selenonium-methylide-tribromo-indate(III) (**3a**), (mp = 113–115 °C): ¹H NMR [(CD₃)₂CO]: δ = 7.47–7.59 (m, 5H), 4.86 (d, ²J = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (d, ²J = 11.7 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (s, 3H), 2.47 (d, ²J = 10.6 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (d, ²J = 10.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR [(CD₃)₂CO]: δ = 132.66, 131.48, 131.31, 131.21, 47.29, 22.36; (DEPT = 135): 132.66 (C_{ar}–H), 131.48 (C_{ar}–H), 131.21 (C_{ar}–H), 47.29 (CH₂), 22.36 (CH₃); ⁷⁷Se NMR ((CD₃)₂CO): δ = 370.

Benzyl-ethyl-selenonium-methylide-tribromo-indate (III) (**3b**), (mp = 131–132.5 °C): ¹H NMR [(CD₃)₂CO]: δ = 7.46–7.64 (m, 5H), 4.86 (d, ²J = 11.8 Hz, 1H), 4.79 (d, ²J = 11.8 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (m, 2H), 2.47 (s, 2H), 1.54 (t, J = 7.50 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR [(CD₃)₂CO]: δ = 132.44, 131.72, 131.42, 131.30, 45.60, 36.26, 21.93, 11.32; (DEPT = 135): 132.44 (C_{ar}–H), 131.42 (C_{ar}–H), 131.30 (C_{ar}–H), 45.60 (CH₂), 36.26 (CH₂), 11.32 (CH₃); ⁷⁷Se NMR ((CD₃)₂CO): δ = 415.

Dibenzyl-selenonium-methylide-tribromo-indate(III) (**3c**), (mp = 152-154 °C): ¹H NMR [(CD₃)₂CO]:

δ = 7.42-7.55 (m, 10H), 4.80 (d, ${}^{2}J = 11.7$ Hz, 2H), 4.73 (d, ${}^{2}J = 11.7$ Hz, 2H), 2.39 (s, 2H); 13 C NMR [(CD₃)₂CO]: δ = 132.44, 131.49, 131.34, 131.23, 46.33, 22.74; (DEPT = 135): 132.44 (C_{ar}-H), 131.34 (C_{ar}-H), 131.23 (C_{ar}-H), 46.33 (CH₂); 77 Se NMR ((CD₃)₂CO): δ = 432.

2.4. Crystallographic studies

Crystals of **3b**-c were mounted in glass capillaries on a STOE IPDSII diffractometer for data collection (see Table 1 for crystal data and structure refinements details). The structure of compound **3b** is disordered; the Se, C(2), C(3) and C(31) atoms adopt two independent positions in the cell with occupancies of 14% and 86%, respectively. The structure was, therefore, refined considering these occupancy factors, with C(31) fixed in Ueq. (for the structure with 14% of occupancy) and with all hydrogen atoms in idealized positions. The crystal of **3c** proved to be a monoclinic (001) reflection twin. Using the non-overlapping reflections of the stronger exemplar, the structure could be solved by direct methods (SIR 2002 [9]). For refinement of the twin model (option HKLF5 in shelxl-97 [10]), additionally all reflections with good overlap of both exemplars were selected with program TWINXL [11]. Nevertheless, due to many partial overlaps, only 2059 reflections remained available (completeness of 31.6%). The phenyl rings were included as rigid groups (C–C = 1.39 Å, C–C–

Table 1 Crystal data and structural refinement for **3b–c**

 $C = 120^{\circ}$) in the refinement and for all C atoms isotropic displacement parameters were used. The hydrogen atoms were treated as riding on idealized positions with fixed isotropic displacement parameters taken as 1.2 U of the corresponding bonding partner. The structure contains two independent molecules (molecules I and II) of similar shape in the asymmetric unit. Other programs used in the crystal structure determination are listed in [12–14].

3. Results and discussion

Bromomethyl-dibromo-indium(III), **1** prepared from indium monobromide and dibromomethane in 1,4-dioxane (diox.) [6], and the dialkyldisselenides, $2\mathbf{a}-\mathbf{c}$ react to afford the dialkylselenonium methylide-tribromo-indate(III) zwitterions, $3\mathbf{a}-\mathbf{c}$ (Scheme 2). The products were obtained as colorless solids from hot chloroform.

The ¹H NMR spectra of **3a–c** (see Section 2) show the resonance signal of the methylide group at $\delta = 2.42 \pm 0.05$ ppm (¹H) and $\delta = 22.33 \pm 0.04$ ppm (¹³C). The methylide ¹³C resonance is difficult to detect, as the result of the large quadrupole moment of the indium atom (I = 9/2); nevertheless we were able to detect it, except for **3a**, after a large number of scans and using a large line broadening parameter (LB = 20). Compounds **3a–c** contain an asymmetric selenium center. Accordingly, we have detected, in **3a**, magnetically

Compound	3b	3c C ₁₅ H ₁₆ Br ₃ InSe	
Empirical formula	$C_{10}H_{14}Br_3InSe$		
Formula weight $(g \text{ mol}^{-1})$	567.72	629.79	
Temperature (K)	193(1)	153(1)	
Wavelength (Å)	0.71073	0.71073	
Crystal system, space group	Monoclinic, C2/c	Monoclinic, $P2_1/c$	
Unit cell dimensions			
<i>a</i> (Å), α (°)	21.779(2), 90	11.3687(8), 90	
b (Å), β (°)	8.6424(9), 107.192(9)	9.3843(4), 92.355(6)	
c (Å), γ (°)	17.489(2), 90	34.905(2), 90	
Volume ($Å^3$)	3144.7(6)	3720.8(4)	
$Z, D_{\text{calc}} (\text{mg/m}^3)$	8, 2.398	8, 2.249	
Absorption coeff. (mm^{-1})	11.413	9.659	
Absorption correction	Numerical	Semiempirical $T(\min/\max) = 0.424/0.699$	
<i>F</i> (000)	2096	2352	
Crystal size (mm ³)	$0.18 \times 0.06 \times 0.06$	$0.18 \times 0.09 \times 0.03$	
θ Range for data collection (°)	1.96–25.99	2.10-24.72	
Limiting indices	$-26 \leq h \leq 26, -10 \leq k \leq 10, -19 \leq l \leq 21$	$-12 \leq h \leq 12, 0 \leq k \leq 9, -41 \leq l \leq 41$	
Reflections total/unique	7838/3036	10555/4618	
Used for twin refinement	_	2059	
Completeness to θ (%)	98.3	31.6	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F^2	Full-matrix least-squares on F^2 as (0 0 1) reflection twin	
Data/restraints/parameters	3036/13/159	2059/0/165	
Goodness of fit on F^2	0.793	0.982	
R indices $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.0398, wR_2 = 0.0630$	$R1 = 0.0860, wR_2 = 0.2083$	
R indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0988, wR_2 = 0.0730$	$R_1 = 0.1301, wR_2 = 0.2421$	
Larg. diff. peak/hole (e $Å^{-3}$)	1.288/-0.647	0.793/-0.845	



non-equivalent methylide and benzylic protons that give rise to typical *AB* patterns spectra with ${}^{2}J_{A-B}$ close to 11 Hz. In **3b–c**, only the benzylic protons are magnetically non-equivalent. The 77 Se NMR resonance signals of compounds **3a–c** (see Section 2.3) were detected between 370–432 ppm, in the range (249–538 ppm) reported [8] for other selenium ylids. These signals are considerably deshielded (150 ± 50 ppm) when compared to the corresponding signals of the parent selenides, **2a–c** (see Section 2.2). The magnitude of this shift is similar to the values (180–250 ppm) normally observed upon alkylation of selenides [8].

The structures of the new selenonium ylids of $InBr_3$ **3b–c** were determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction studies. The molecular structure of compound **3b** is depicted in Fig. 1 (molecule with 86% of occupancy). Fig. 2 represents molecule II of compound **3c**. Important bond lengths and angles are summarized in Table 2. The general features of the structures of **3b–c** are in good agreement with those reported for the neutral adducts of ylids of group 15 and 16, Br_3InCH_2L . The average indium–bromine bond distances of 2.510(1) Å for **3b**, 2.521(6) Å for **3c** (molecule I) and 2.531(6) Å for



Fig. 1. The molecular structure of 3b with atoms shown as 50% probability ellipsoids.



Fig. 2. The molecular structure of 3c with atoms shown as 50% probability ellipsoids.

Table 2 Important bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for 3b-c

1				
	3b ^a	3c (Molecule I)	3c (Molecule II)	
In–Br ^b	2.510(1)	2.521(6)	2.531(6)	
In-C(1)	2.175(8)	2.13(4)	2.21(3)	
Se-C(1)	1.889(9)	1.90(3)	1.86(3)	
Se-C(2)	1.958(8)	2.08(4)	1.95(4)	
Se-C(3)	1.956(9)	1.97(5)	1.98(4)	
C(2)–C(21)	1.48(1)	1.49(4)	1.50(4)	
C(3)–C(31)	1.45(2)	1.52(5)	1.55(4)	
Car-Car	1.38(2)	1.39 ^c	1.39 ^c	
Br–In–Br ^b	111.07(4)	106.4(2)	105.6(2)	
$Br-In-C(1)^{b}$	110.0	112(1)	113(1)	
C(1)-Se- $C(2)$	100.8(5)	108(2)	102(2)	
C(1)-Se-C(3)	99.4(4)	97(2)	100(2)	
In–C(1)–Se	112.8(4)	113(2)	112(1)	

^a Molecule with 86% of occupancy.

^b Mean value.

^c Constraint value.



Fig. 3. Selected torsion angles (°) for 3c (molecules I and II).

3c (molecule II) compare well to those observed in the Br₃InCH₂L compounds {L = (C₂H₅)₃N, 2.529(1) Å [15]; L = (C₆H₅)₃P, 2.512(2) Å [16]; L = (C₆H₅)₃As, 2.508(6) Å [15]; L = (C₆H₅)₃Sb, 2.509(5) Å [15]; L = (C₆H₅CH₂)₂S, 2.5150(7) Å [17]}. Similarly, the In-C bond distances in **3b** [2.18(1) Å], **3c** (molecule I) [2.13(4) Å] and **3c** (molecule II) [2.21(3) Å] are readily comparable to the values encountered in the cited Br₃InCH₂L compounds {L = (C₂H₅)₃N, 2.185(5) Å; L = (C₆H₅)₃P, 2.18(1) Å; L = (C₆H₅)₃As, 2.17(5) Å; L = (C₆H₅)₃Sb, 2.16(3) Å; L = (C₆H₅CH₂)₂S, 2.189(5) Å}.

The measured bond lengths and angles in molecules I and II of the twinned crystal 3c are the same within the experimental error. The main difference relating the two structures is in the Br–In–C1–Se torsion angles. Fig. 3 shows the *Newman projections* along the C1–In axis for both molecules with the important torsion angles. In molecule 1, a regular staggered conformation is observed, while in molecule II the dibenzylsele-nide substituent is rotated by 20° with respect to the position in molecule I towards an eclipsed conformation.

4. Conclusion

Bromomethyl-dibromo-indium(III) is an organometallic compound containing two electrophilic sites, namely the metal center and the bromomethylic carbon atom. Ligand coordination to the metal is achieved by bromide anion and hard ligands, such as ethers and triphenylphosphine oxide [6]. The soft dialkylselenide ligands, R^1SeR^2 coordinate to the soft halomethylic carbon of the carbenoid, forming the dialkylselenonium methylide adducts of indium tribromide, Br_3InCH_2 . SeR^1R^2 . The new selenonium ylides are members of a series of related Br_3InCH_2L adducts, in which L is a group 15 (N, P, As, Sb) and 16 (S) neutral ligand. As for the related Br_3InCH_2L compounds, the selenonium ylides are stable compounds and lack reactivity as ylide carriers by thermal rupture of the indium–carbon bond. Other chemical properties, however, still remain completely unexplored, and the study of these properties will be the subject of further research to be reported in due time.

5. Supporting material

Crystallographic data for the structural analysis have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre; CCDC Nos. 254745 (for compound **3b**) and 254746 (for compound **3c**). Copies of this information may be obtained free of the charge from The Director, CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge, CB2 1 EZ, UK (fax: +44 1223 336033; email: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk or http://www.ccd.cam.ac.uk).

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